Import of Liquid Nitrogen Plant by Institute of Armament Technology

1433. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a liquid Nitrogen plant imported by the Institute of Armament Technology, Pune at a cost of Rs. 8.21 lakhs was recalled in a damaged condition, if so, what was the nature and extent of the damage;

(b) when and who repaired the damaged plant and at what cost;

(c) who bore the cost of the repairs;

(d) what are the reasons for delay in carrying out the repairs; and

(e) how were the requirements of the institute for liquid Nitrogen met during the period the plant remained in a damaged condition and at what cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir. The plant had been marginally damaged during the transit. The liquifier and purifier modules needed repaired;

(b) The damaged plant was repaired in June 1993, by the personnel of the Institute at a material cost of Rs. 5,000 approximately.

(c) The cost was borne by the Institute.

(d) The damage had occured during the transit which was the responsibility of the buyer. Therefore, the supplier expressed their inability to replace the modules at their cost in India. As it was not cost-effective to send the equipment to the supplier in U.K., the repair was undertaken by the scientific personnel of the Institute.

(e) Part of the proposed R&D work, for which equipment was procured, was later deferred due to resource crunch. For the balance of work, during the period when the plant remained in damaged condition, the requirement of Institute for liquid nitrogen were met through procurement from local market at a cost of Rs. 0.39 lakh.

Development of Prithvi Missile

1434. SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of development of Prithvi Missile; and

(b) by when it is likely to be delivered to the Indian Armed Forces for deployment on India's borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The Prithvi missile is presently undergoing user trials. It is likely to be inducted into Service on successful completion of these trials.

Modernisation and self-reliance in Defence

1435. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need for self-reliance and modernisation in the area of defence in view of the changed post-communist balance of power;